

THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Steps and Periods for the unbaptized, including children of catechetical age



Period	Name	Goal / Intent	Content	Duration	Rites
Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate # 36 - 40	Inquirer Well-disposed	Initial Conversion Awakening of faith Call from sin into profound mystery of divine love Habit of calling on God and of prayer; embrace a lifestyle as God intends; experience of Christian community	Introduce the living God revealed by Jesus whom God sent (evangelization); help connect personal stories to the Christian story through focus on the Scripture especially the Gospels (conversion);	Unspecified – of no fixed duration or structure	No specific rites. # 39 offers option of a preliminary manner of receiving inquirers.
The Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate is celebrated after prayerful discernment among pastor, sponsors, catechists, Deacons, and inquirer, resulting in the determination that the inquirer is ready to move into a period of deeper formation (#41-47) [Children #260-276]					
Period of the Catechumenate #75-117	Catechumen	Apprenticeship/ Training in the Christian life Progressive change of outlook and morals evident in social consequences	Appropriate catechesis divided into steps, suited to liturgical year, supported by celebrations of the Word. Intimate knowledge of the mystery of salvation. With the community learn to pray, keep an expectation of Christ (hope), follow spiritual inspiration, show charity to neighbor, engage with the community in apostolic witness	Not decided in advance; depends on cooperation with the grace of God. Lasts long enough for conversion to mature, even over several years and to learn about the whole of Christian life in extended apprenticeship which is offered in the liturgical year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations of the Word. • Dismissal from Mass • Blessings of the Catechumens • Rite of Anointing with Oil of Catechumens • Minor Exorcisms • Sending of the Catechumens for Election (USA Adaptation) (May anticipate the Handing on of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer)
The Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names is celebrated after prayerful discernment resulting in the determination that the catechumen is ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (# 118-128) [Children #277-290]					
Period of Purification and Enlightenment #138-205	Elect, Co-petitioners, Those to be enlightened	Intense preparation of spirit and heart focusing on what needs to be changed, or is weak, or sinful, and simultaneous strengthening and celebrating what is holy	Interior reflection: more like a retreat. Liturgical catechesis to prepare for baptism, and a deepening relationship with Christ the Savior.	Six weeks, usually coinciding with Lent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinies • Handing on of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer • Immediate Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday
Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation - Easter Vigil (#206-217) [Children: 304-329]					
Period of Mystagogy # 244-251	Neophyte	Deepening grasp of the Paschal Mystery by meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist and doing the work of charity. A full and joyful inclusion into the community.	Attending the Eucharist with the community, reflecting on the celebration of the sacraments and on the works of charity, breaking open the Easter Gospels, engaging more fully with the faith community	From the celebration of Easter until Pentecost ★ US Adaptation: extended for one full year until the anniversary of initiation.	Mass for the Neophytes (Parish's Masses of Sundays of Easter Time) and the neophytes' celebration of the Eucharist with the bishop. Celebration near Pentecost.